

Remarks

Interview Summary

On 15 January 2008, the undersigned discussed the status of this case with the Examiner via telephone. It was noted that an initial response to the Restriction Requirement was filed in May 2007. However, that response was non-compliant for failure to provide status indicators for the claims, and a corresponding Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was sent by the Office on 7 May 2007. A subsequent Response was filed 7 June 2007, and is believed to be compliant. However, PAIR indicated as of 15 January 2008 that the last action was "Non Final Action Mailed," with a status date of 7 May 2007. Thus, PAIR does not adequately reflect the submission of the Response of 7 June 2007. The Examiner suggested that the undersigned file a Supplemental Response so as to trigger proper docketing of this case in PAIR. The Examiner indicated that the case should not be considered abandoned due to the response being timely filed in June 2007. No cited art or claims were discussed.

Election

Applicants elect the Species of Figs. 1-7, with traverse.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement with respect to certain claims belonging to certain identified species. In general, and without limiting the scope of the actual claims, the Examiner appears to divide the species along the following lines:

- Species of Figs. 1-7 is the "basic" species.
- Species of Figs. 8-9 relates to the extent of the anterior and/or posterior ends (e.g., truncation of posterior end).
- Species of Figs. 10-14 relates to the use of a member (e.g., screw) attach the second wing.
- Species of Figs. 15-16 relates to the first and second wings being angled.
- Species of Fig. 17¹ relates to the use of keepers or stops.

¹ Fig. 18 is applicable to a generic method.

With this division in mind, Applicants respectfully submit that:

1. Claim 10 properly belongs with the species of Figs. 8-9 due to the limitations related to the extent of the anterior and posterior ends.
2. Claims 18-19, 21 properly belong with the species of Figs. 1-7.
3. Claim 25 (assigned to two species) properly belongs with the species of Figs. 8-9.
4. Claims 36-37, 40-41, 62 properly belong to the species of Figs. 1-7. Note that claim 36 does not require a separate member for the "fastening", which is described in corresponding dependent claim 37 as involving "interference-fitting the second portion on the first portion." See ¶0045.

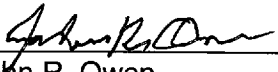
In accordance with the election above, Applicants have canceled claims 9-10, 14, 16, 20, 22-24, 25, 27, 28, 30-34, 35, 38-39, 52-57, 58-60, and 61 without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-8, 11-13, 15, 17-19, 21, 26, 29, 36-37, 40-41, 42, 51, 62, and 63-65 remain pending in the case, and Applicants submit that all of these claims encompass the elected species of Figs. 1-7.

This response is believed to be fully responsive to the Restriction requirement. The claim status identifiers are with respect to the originally filed claims, because none of the prior responses are indicated as being entered according to PAIR.

If there are any outstanding issues or questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that they may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.

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